

# JSC Education volunteers inspire Clear Creek students

Through an on-going community partnership with the Clear Creek Independent School District, volunteers from JSC's Education Outreach Program "adopted" 12 students for a day and gave them a behind-the-scenes look at their unique space-related careers.

Dina Barclay, an employee from the EVA Systems Group, was surprised to find out how much the students knew about the program.

"They knew about the KC-135, that CAPCOM is an astronaut and that Gene Kranz wore unique attire on console," Barclay said.

Liz Kalla from the Biomedical Hardware Development and Engineering Office, who co-hosted two students with Barclay, arranged for the students to see Shannon Lucid "live" at the Transfer Debriefing.

"When we passed Shannon in the hall on the way to the debrief, I told her that we were bringing some students to the debrief and hoped she didn't mind," Kalla said. "Shannon was very excited and said that it was great, and asked what school they were from."

Mike Engle from the Payload Operations Branch also was impressed

with the way JSC employees were willing to let students participate in their work activities. When Engle took the student he hosted, Randy Doss from Webster Intermediate School, to Mission Control to sit in on a simulation, the Payload Officer on console, Ben Pawlik, let him plug into the loops and even "polled" him for a "Go for sim start."

"As we were leaving, Randy told me he'd really like to work here, but he knows it's going to take a lot of hard work to be able to learn everything he needs to know to get a job with NASA," Engle said. "I think that

kind of response is exactly what we're all trying to achieve."

By hosting the students for a day, the volunteers helped JSC to meet its educational goal of capturing student interest in science, math and computer technology at an early age. Mark Mangieri, a self-proclaimed computer hacker from the Engineering Directorate's Flight Software Branch, hosted Webster Intermediate students Sang Nguyen and Eric Reed who indicated an interest in computers. Mangieri involved the students in demonstrations of his RGPS experiment and

some Internet sites that have enabled him to do his job better. Mangieri was excited to give something back to his community since he attended Webster Intermediate almost 20 years ago.

The students were part of CCISD's Career Discovery Day Program, a one-day program which permits eighth grade students from League City and Webster Intermediate Schools to shadow a professional in a career field of their choice. Employees interested in JSC's Education Outreach Program can call x32929 for information.

## Three more ISO 9000 sessions set

Three additional ISO 9000 awareness seminars have been scheduled for employees who missed the first seminars.

All NASA and contractor employees are invited to attend one of the following sessions as their schedules permit. The sessions will be from 10-11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Nov. 12 in the Bldg. 2 Auditorium.

The seminars are designed to help employees understand what ISO 9000 is, why the center is implementing it and JSC's implementation timeline. There is no need to "sign-up" to attend a session. For more information about the seminars, call Glen Van Zandt at x33069.

## NASA skiers plan trip to Steamboat

This ski season, participants of NASA Ski Week VI will be heading for Steamboat Springs over the Martin Luther King holiday, Jan. 18-25.

Steamboat Springs is located North and West of Denver, Colo., and is an excellent ski area for both the novice and advance skier. The trip includes a direct flight from Houston to Hayden, which is 20 minutes outside of Steamboat, seven nights lodging in the ski-in/ski-out hotel, a five day lift ticket, welcoming reception, banquet, fanny pack, name tag and trip brochure.

The cost varies from \$1,064 to \$1,164 per person, depending on available accommodations. Payment plans are available. Participants in this year's ski week include JSC, Kennedy, Marshall, Langelly, Dryden and Goddard.

A pre-trip party will be given Nov. 9 to provide JSC participants a chance to meet others who will be going and receive additional information on the upcoming trip. There are still four spaces remaining until the early November timeframe, and a waiting list will be started after Nov. 9 in case of a cancellation. Those interested in going should contact Ron Davis at 482-5952.



Members of the Moscow Operations Support Team that supported Shannon Lucid's record-setting mission aboard Mir from the Mission Control Center in Korolev, near Moscow, display a Texas flag to be hung in MCC-Moscow. Members of the group include third row, from left, Bill Gerstenmaier, Chris Swaider, Tom Marshburn, Andrei Biryukov, Sasha Kopteva and Sergei Posanov. Second row, from left, are Bob Hoyt, Joe Neigt and Ed Bowers. Third row, from left, are Jeffery Cardenas, Ron Crawford, Michael Malyshev and Caasi Moore.

## Lucid lauds Moscow team's work

Living in a hotel far away from home for as long as three months often isn't fun, but it becomes even more of a hardship when the language and even the alphabet are decipherable only with intensive study.

Add to that only six hours of daylight during a six-month-long winter, occasional knee-deep snow and temperatures that frequently fall below zero, and individuals can begin to understand that a strong sense of dedication is a requirement.

But despite different foods, strange surroundings and culture shock, the job itself is familiar to the JSC personnel who do it: supporting the operations of a human spacecraft from Mission Control—even if it is in Moscow.

Members of the Mission Operations Support Team in Moscow that supported Shannon Lucid's record-setting mission aboard the Mir space station typically stayed in Russia for four to six weeks on each tour of duty. The majority of them worked more than one tour during Lucid's stay, and many are now involved with John Blaha's mission aboard Mir.

"The dedication of these people is what made the mission work. I was just the tip of the iceberg, and, without them, the flight would simply not have happened. I talked to them daily as both friends and coworkers, and it was always a high point of my day," Lucid said. "I can't tell you how grateful I am to them for their efforts and what a winning team they are."

Normally, seven team members worked in Moscow at a time, working in two shifts to support the flight at least 16 hours each day. Gaylen Johnson, the lead flight surgeon for NASA 2, and Bill Gerstenmaier, the lead operations director for the mission, remained in Moscow for the majority of Lucid's time in orbit.

"Working in Moscow, team members are away from family and friends for an extended period of time, a sacrifice that exemplifies their dedication to the job. More than just being away from everyone, they are also in a foreign country, with a very different culture and different language, which can be difficult," Gerstenmaier said. "Everyone did a great job, and the teamwork is what made this mission a success."

The team recently commemorated the end of Lucid's successful flight by displaying a Texas flag donated by Texas State Sen. Buster Brown, which had flown over the Texas State Capitol on April 12, 1996, the 15th anniversary of STS-1 and also Cosmonauts' Day in Russia.

Team members not pictured in the photo included Gaylen Johnson, Pat McGinnis, Tony Sang, Kyle Herring, Ray Castillo, Mike Braukas, Kari Fluegel, Ed Campion, Dave Faram, Jack Duce, Sheddric Bradford, Susan Freeman, Russ Hartlieb, Nikail Mehta, Tommy Thompson, Danny Irvin, Tim McBride, Anita Kilgore, Tonya Sivils, Erik Shaw, Mart Carr, Kristen Maidlow and James Hartsfield.

## KSC director makes plans to retire in '97

Jay Honeycutt, director of Kennedy Space Center, has announced his plans to retire from NASA in early 1997.

The longtime JSC employee's career has spanned almost the entire history of the U.S. human space flight program, beginning at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., in 1960. He has been the director of KSC since January 1995.

"When I first came to this position in 1995, I committed to staying on for two years and then reassessing my plans," Honeycutt said. "Those two years are up and it's time to think about what I want to do next. I have no specific time frame in mind but will leave when the time is right and a successor is on hand."

"Jay Honeycutt has played an important role in NASA achievements for three decades," NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin said. "He has pursued excellence in every project with which he has been associated. This was recognized by the White House, which honored KSC with quality awards during the past two years. He will be greatly missed."

Honeycutt is the sixth KSC center director. In announcing his plans to leave NASA, Honeycutt said, "This was a very difficult decision. I am very proud to have been a part of the tremendous achievements of the agency and the contribution it has made to a better quality of life for all Americans."

## Linenger to return to JSC from Russia next month

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we ought to go.' Without a doubt, that kind of program is good for mankind, good for all the countries on the Earth to work together."

In his sixth week aboard the space station, Blaha said he now realizes that longer flights are more effective and give a new perspective to on-orbit science.

"From a scientific viewpoint, when you see crystals growing here in microgravity, it's just incredible," Blaha said. "I think it's a shame we can't beam up lots of smart people who understand physics, chemistry and fluid dynamics so they can rapidly expand their knowledge of those particular physical and chemical processes. Of course, that's what all the science research is about."

Science on the station this week included more work on the Passive Accelerometer System. The experiment is meant to study the residual gravity on Mir by observing the motions of a small metallic ball as it travels down a narrow cylinder. Other work includes continuing Earth observations and a changeout of samples in the Biotechnology Systems cartilage growth experiment meant to study cell attachment patterns and interactions in microgravity.

Astronauts who are scheduled to travel to Mir are continuing their training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia. Jerry Linenger, set to succeed Blaha in January, is nearing the end of the Russian portion of his training and is due back at JSC in mid-December for final training with his shuttle crew mates before the launch of STS-81.

## Federal employees may participate in elections

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does not put them in overtime.

Employees on Variable Day Schedule are not eligible for excused absence for voting because the flexibility of this work schedule.

Excused absence for voting purposes may be used only at the beginning or ending of the daily work schedule. Where an employee prefers to vote at some other time during the workday, he or she may be granted annual leave or leave without pay for that purpose.

Questions regarding absence for voting should be addressed to a Human Resources Representative or Valerie Michaud at x31057.

JSC employees also are remind-

ed that the guidelines for federal employee participation in political activities were relaxed in 1994, although Senior Executive Service employees still must abide by the stricter rules.

Under the Hatch Act amendments of 1994, federal employees may: be candidates for public office in non-partisan election, register to vote as they choose; express opinions about candidates and issues, contribute money to political organizations, attend political fund-raising functions, attend and be active at political rallies, join and serve as officers in a political party, sign nominating petitions, campaign for or against referendum questions, campaign for

or against candidates, make campaign speeches, and distribute campaign literature.

Federal employees may not: use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election, solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor or employee organization, knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency, engage in political activity while on duty, in any government office, while wearing an official uniform, or while using a government vehicle, be candidates for public office in partisan elections, or wear political buttons on duty.

## Space News Roundup

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## Vehicle handbook available online

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speed limit on Avenue B from First Street to Link One will be 25 miles per hour; from Link One to Fourth Street the limit will be 35 with a reduction to 25 approaching Gate 3.

Hard copies of the vehicle handbook will be available at the Bldg. 1 reception window, the Bldg. 30 and Bldg. 110 badge offices and at the Security Branch Office in Bldg. 45, Rm. 211. The handbook also will be available online at [http://stic.jsc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/JSC\\_COD](http://stic.jsc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/JSC_COD)

Employees are expected review and comply with these new traffic safety policies to ensure continued personnel and local wildlife safety.